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CARLETON MITCHELL

SALT DRIES FROM SEA BRINE IN GIANT PANS ON GREAT INAGUA, FLAMINGO HAVEN OF THE BAHAMA ISLANDS (Bulletin No. 5)

Bulletin No. 1, October 31, 1949

Po Valley Oil Discovery Adds Welcome Fuel

NEW finds of oil and gas in the Po Valley are giving an unexpected boost to Italy's struggling postwar economy.

Large oil deposits were found a few months ago near the village of Cortemaggiore in northern Italy, 12 miles from Piacenza. The discovery was more important to fuel-short Italians than a cry of "Gold!" would have been. This recent discovery is the first oil field of commercial rank to turn up in Italy. Added to increasing supplies of natural gas from the same region, it promises a welcome cut in bills for imported fuel which have long hampered Italy's industry.

Lakes as Well as Rivers Add to Po's Volume

Great changes are already under way in the vast and industrially outstanding Po Valley, according to news reports. For example, Italy's largest producer of pipes and tubing—Dalmine, near Milan—has substituted natural gas for expensive coal and coke. The gas is brought through the company's pipes from reserves 40 miles away.

The land drained by the Po includes almost all of northern Italy, from the northern swing of the Apennines to the Alps, and from the western border with France to the Adriatic. It covers nearly 27,000 square miles. In addition to the many rivers that flow into it, the Po receives water from four large Alpine lakes—Como, Garda, Iseo, and Maggiore.

Two of Italy's largest industrial centers, Turin and Milan, lie in the northwest part of the Po basin. Both cities manufacture automobiles, machinery, and textiles. Turin, with a population of more than 700,000, is Italy's fourth-largest city. Its biggest industry is the Fiat automobile works, most important in Italy (illustration, next page).

Oddly enough, it is Turin's ancient origin that gives it a modern air. It was a permanent camp for the legions of Caesar Augustus and its broad, straight streets cross each other at right angles on the pattern of the ancient town of Augusta Taurinarum.

Milan Is Center of Art and Industry

Turin has a university and numerous art galleries. Its ancient past is represented by a museum of antiquities which includes Egyptian mummies, Greek coins and sculptures, and Roman relics found in Turin. Appropriate to its busy commercial present is a museum of industrial art. Exhibits include wood carving, tapestries, and paintings, some of which date back to the 12th century.

Milan, Italy's second city, has nearly 1,300,000 people. Important industrially, it is also the center of modern Italy's artistic and intellectual life. Heart of the city is the cathedral. This enormous church, begun in 1386, is one of the most imposing in the world. From its roof rise 135 spires. Some 2,300 marble statues decorate its exterior. There is room within its walls for 40,000 people.

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W. ROBERT MOORE

JAPANESE MEN AND WOMEN USE A SMALL PORTABLE THRESHER TO HELP HARVEST THEIR RICE

They work in a corner of a field where the rice has been cut, leaving stubble. Bundles ready to be threshed lie along the roadway. The woman standing between the thresher and the road is winnowing by hand the straw which has already gone through the machine. This is to save any grain that may have stayed with the straw. Across the road freshly cut sheaves of rice dry in the sun preparatory to threshing. Men and women share the field work of Japan (Bulletin No. 2).

Japanese Diet Makes Nation Younger

THE Japanese diet is making every man, woman, and child in Japan one to two years younger. This is not to say that the island country's food habits have uncovered a fountain of youth, but that its parliament (diet) has changed the method of counting birthdays.

One of the many results of postwar Allied influence in the Pacific kingdom is adoption of a law discarding *kazoe-doshi*. This time-honored way of computing ages will be substituted by the Western method.

Few Hours Equal Two Years

Under the old Japanese system, a baby is considered to be one year old when it is born. Another year is added to its age on the first day of the following January. Thus a baby born on December 31 would be two years old the next day.

One explanation of this practice is that the Japanese count the number of years a person has seen. A baby "sees" one year at birth and another at the beginning of the next year. A Japanese sociologist said his personal idea was that "the Japanese respect older people so much that they want to be as old as possible." Most Japanese shrug off such explanations and say it is simply *shukan*, the custom.

How deeply rooted is this custom is shown by the fact that a law establishing the Western system of computing ages from the date of birth has been on the statute books of Japan for 47 years but has failed to prevail against the weight of tradition.

The new law, which takes effect on January 1, 1950, aims to make the old law effective. To make sure that the new law shall not be ignored as was the law of 1902, this one provides that "the government shall take a positive step so that the people may duly understand the purport of the law and act in accordance with its provisions." At present, census workers report, many older Japanese do not know their own birthdays. All they know offhand is their Japanese-system age.

Maizuru a City of Hopes and Disappointments

In a different way, other years have been subtracted from the lives of a certain group of Japanese: prisoners of war returning from the Soviet silences of Siberia and their families waiting for them in Maizuru, the port of repatriation. This once-great naval base on the Japan Sea coast of Honshu now is a city of hopes and disappointments.

Wives have left their homes and fields (illustration, inside cover) and have moved there to watch and wait. The family of one long-missing husband has opened a little shop selling frozen fruit juice and other Japanese goodies on the Sanjo (Third Street), the boulevard of broken dreams up which the repatriates pass from bay to railroad station.

Several other families from afar have taken up residence. One aging wife arrived more than two years ago but recently died of what the Japanese call "heart sickness"—still waiting for the man who never came.

Great changes have come to Maizuru since the war. In the years of imperial power Maizuru was a Japanese naval beehive, with men-of-war

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Famous the world over is Milan's opera house, La Scala. On its stage many noted operas and distinguished singers have been introduced.

The north Italian plain is immensely valuable to agriculture. The Italians irrigate extensively. Most of the nation's four and a half million acres of irrigated land are there. Along the Adriatic coast and the Po River, particularly, large drainage projects have increased the extent of land available for farming. In the Po region grow rice, corn, wheat, flax, clover, hemp, and sugar beets. Vineyards stripe irrigated zones and large dairy and poultry farms extend for miles.

The Po is Italy's greatest river, in both length and volume. From its source in the Cottian Alps it flows for more than 400 miles. As it travels to the sea, it gathers sediment from the thousands of square miles it drains. Deposits at its mouth have moved the Adriatic shore line 14 miles beyond Adria, a onetime seaport.

Because of flood danger, few large towns have grown up along the banks of the Po. Pavia, a rice center, stands on the Ticino near where that Alpine stream joins the Po. Ferrara, near the Adriatic, was a prosperous commercial city during the Renaissance. In modern times it has been busy with reclamation projects.

NOTE: The Po Valley may be located on the National Geographic Society's map of Europe and the Near East. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

See also, "Italy Smiles Again," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, June, 1949; "Italy, From Roman Ruins to Radio," March, 1940; and "Hunting Castles in Italy," September, 1935.

FIAT

LIKE THE LEGENDARY PHOENIX RISING FROM ITS ASHES, ITALY'S FAMOUS FIAT ROLLS FROM THE ASSEMBLY LINE IN THE TURIN FACTORY RESTORED FROM THE WRECKAGE OF WAR

Bulletin No. 3, October 31, 1949

Philadelphia to Have Independence Park

PHILADELPHIA'S Independence National Historical Park project has been brought another step closer to realization by the naming of four men to administer it. The park will include historic buildings and property surrounding Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence was signed July 4, 1776.

Also putting the Quaker City in the news was the indecision of Congress on the question of making it the headquarters for the 1950 census. The first census (conducted in Philadelphia, incidentally) reported that William Penn's "greene country towne" had some 28,000 people in 1790. The 17th decennial census is expected to show more than two million.

A City of Many Colleges

The enormous growth of the Pennsylvania metropolis places it today among the topmost United States cities. One of the country's major seaports and hub of a giant railway system, it has attracted hundreds of widely varied industries. Its plants turn out products ranging from locomotives, steamships, and streetcars to carpets, hats, and leather goods.

And there is more to the Philadelphia story than economics. The city boasts dozens of scientific and cultural organizations. Its extensive educational facilities include such nationally known institutions of higher learning as the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, Girard College, Drexel Institute, and the Curtis Institute of Music.

Philadelphia is also the seat of the oldest school of industrial art in America, and the oldest school devoted to the teaching of fine arts.

The city has more than a thousand churches, and about 170 parks and playgrounds. There are even two midtown campsites set aside permanently for the tepees of visiting Indians!

Founded in 1682 by William Penn—called "Billy" Penn by Philadelphians—the city has long been celebrated as the cradle of United States freedom. Independence Hall (illustration, next page), where both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were adopted and signed; Congress Hall, where Congress met while Philadelphia was the temporary national capital (1790-1800)—these and many other historic shrines are familiar to millions of Americans.

"Firsts" Include Bank and Paper Mill

Not so well known, however, is the fact that Philadelphia was the nation's pioneer in the fields of printing and publishing, business and finance, science and education.

For example, the first United States paper mill was built there in 1690 by William Rittenhouse, a Mennonite preacher who had come over from the Netherlands. The first American bank, the Bank of North America, was organized there in 1782.

Other Quaker City "firsts" include publication of the first American schoolbook, magazine, and daily newspaper; organization of the first American stock exchange, public library, and scientific society (the American Philosophical Society). To Benjamin Franklin, who came to the town

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steaming into the mountain-girt bay for repairs and ammunition and with approximately 100,000 members of the military services working and training there. The entire area was strictly guarded and the approach of unauthorized persons was forbidden on pain of death.

In those days Maizuru had a civilian and military population estimated by the present mayor at 250,000. Now it has shrunk to 86,023. There is little today to hold or draw people—except the stubborn hope in the breasts of families who have been able to move to Maizuru and wait for a missing son, father, husband, lover, or brother.

Industries include a sardine and mackerel cannery, rayon and silk plants, and a sawmill. But most people live by selling each other something in the markets—fish, cakes, vegetables, fans, and the wooden geta that make a Japanese pedestrian sound like a ping-pong game.

Signs say "Welcome home, repatriates." Japanese lanterns and placards decorate the Sanjo, and a small Japanese flag flies atop a squat monument covered with fresh cedar boughs. Says a sign in Japanese on the depot: "Let us try to rebuild a clean and beautiful Japan."

NOTE: Japan is shown on the Society's map of Japan and Korea.

See also "Backwoods Japan During American Occupation," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, April, 1947; "Sunset in the East," June, 1946*; "Face of Japan," December, 1945; "Behind the Mask of Modern Japan," November, 1945*; "Unknown Japan," August, 1942*; "Women's Work in Japan," January, 1938*; and, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, April 26, 1948, "East Meets West on Tokyo's Avenue A." *(Issues marked with an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00.)*

WILLARD PRICE

JAPAN'S YOUNG AND OLD, HERE COMPANIONABLY WARMING FEET AGAINST THE HOUSEHOLD FIREBOX, WILL BY LAW SOON LOSE A YEAR OR TWO OF AGE

trees that shade the square are 13 red oaks planted in honor of the 13 original colonies.

Bulletin No. 4, October 31, 1949

Caveman Given Credit for First Comics

THE caveman, generally pictured by comic artists as a sloping-browed brute armed with a heavy knotted club, now is being given credit for introducing the comic strip. Long before the dawn of recorded history, primitive men oftentimes put aside their clubs and took up drawing materials. Using the technique of consecutive sketches to dramatize a situation, funny or not, these early Milton Caniffs without balloons long ago showed that a comic was not necessarily associated with comedy.

The prehistoric artists are given their due in "20,000 Years of Comics," an exhibit now touring large cities in behalf of the United States Savings Bond Program. Opening in Washington early in October, it moved to Boston a few days later to start its grand circuit.

20th Century Brought Speedy Advance

The modern history of the comics covers only the past 57 years, the touring exhibit shows. In that time they have advanced from a virtual nowhere to their present enormous popularity in daily newspapers, motion pictures, and elsewhere.

The 57-year record, however, is but the speeded up, 20th century phase of a form of enlightenment found in all known civilizations, back even to Europe's Old Stone Age of 15,000 to 30,000 years ago.

In Altamira Cave near Santander, a Spanish archeologist in 1879 came upon vivid murals of bison, stags, roes, and boars of types long extinct. It was the first important discovery of cave art attributable with certainty to men 200 centuries back. Comparable or greater prehistoric finds have occurred since (illustration, next page).

Bronze Age Scandinavian art prior to 2,000 B.C. shows ships and seafaring people. Egyptian picture strips 4,000 years old present farm and harvest scenes. Reliefs on the walls of the Palace of Sennacharib in Ninevah depict battle scenes of nearly 3,000 years ago.

Bayeux Tapestry a Historic Comic

European monks, skilled as manuscript illuminators, employed the picture strip to relate the story of Adam and Eve and other religious themes. They, too, saw the spiritual appeal of the stained-glass mosaics developed by Byzantine and Venetian artists of the 10th century, and thus created storytelling cathedral windows.

Perhaps the most famous "comic strip" of the Middle Ages is the Bayeux Tapestry. In needlework of eight colors, 20 inches wide and 231 feet long, it records the Norman version of the Norman conquest of England in 1066.

Somewhat in the spirit of the modern cartoon, a 16th century painting by Pieter Breughel the Elder immortalizes 92 Flemish folk sayings, among them "Pie in the sky" and "Casting roses before swine." One of the 202 German masterpieces brought to America late in 1945, it entranced thousands of viewers at the National Gallery of Art and other museums.

Moving along to colonial America, an ancestor of modern comics was

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as a boy and stayed on to become one of its greatest citizens, belongs much of the credit for these early accomplishments.

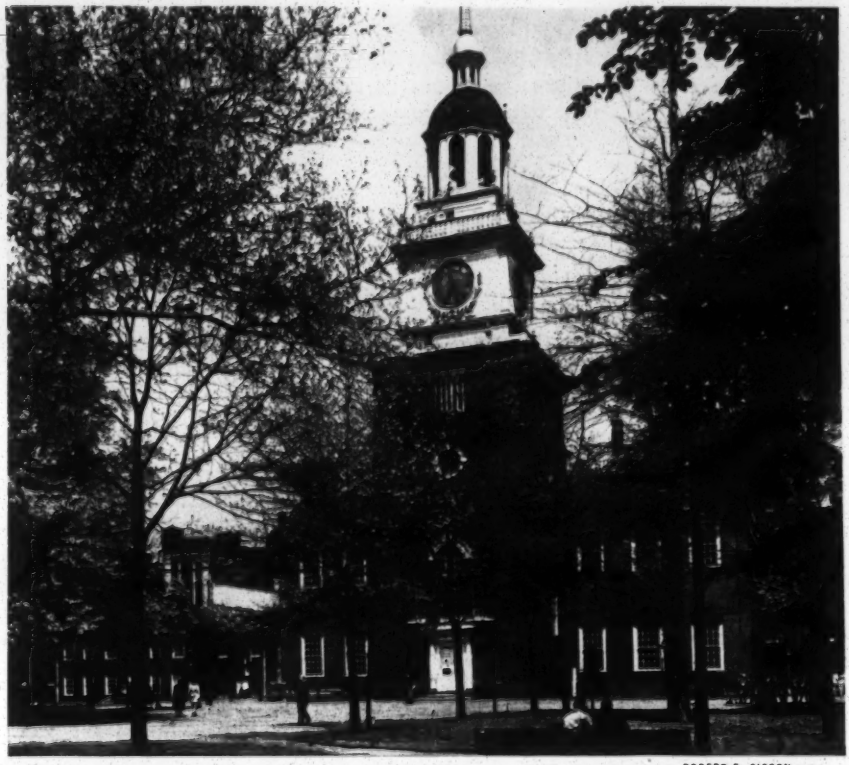
Philadelphia also has presented the country with several celebrated food dishes. Scrapple, cream cheese, and pepper pot all were the concoctions of ingenious Philadelphia cooks.

Philadelphians take a great pride in their city's past and in its many achievements. The average resident is a home-loving person who wants his own house and a yard to go with it. A recent survey estimated that 85 per cent of the city's dwellings are single-family houses, two or three stories high, most of them of the "block" type. Generally there is at least a patch of green in the dooryard—a tree, a bush, flowers, or at least a spot of grass.

NOTE: Philadelphia is shown on the Society's map of the Northeastern United States.

For further information, see "Artists Look at Pennsylvania," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for July, 1948; and "Historic City of Brotherly Love" and "Colorful Corner of the City of Homes" (13 color photographs), December, 1932.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, May 3, 1948, "Political Conventions Have 116-Year History."



ROBERT F. SISSON

THE SHRINE OF LIBERTY WILL BECOME THE HEART OF A NEW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Independence Hall, whose white tower has gleamed above the trees of Independence Square for two centuries, is to assume added importance under a 1948 Act of Congress. The "cradle of liberty," home of the Liberty Bell, will become the heart of Independence National Historical Park. Among the trees that shade the square are 13 red oaks planted in honor of the 13 original colonies.

Bulletin No. 5, October 31, 1949

Bahamas Radar Sites to Dot Columbus Route

THE "Isles of June" have a date with radar. Though the engagement still is on the planning boards of United States military experts, radar tracking stations soon will start going up on the British-owned Bahama Islands.

The project will be part of the United States government program for a 3,000-mile testing range for guided missiles. Function of the stations will be to follow the flight of missiles launched from Florida.

3,000 Islands, Cays, and Rocks

The Bahama Islands have an ideal geographic position for the job. Those nearest the United States lie only 52 miles from the Florida coast (map, next page). The archipelago's southern extremity, Great Inagua Island (illustration, cover), reaches to within a few miles of Cuba and Haiti. The Turks and Caicos islands, geographically part of the Bahamas, belong to Jamaica politically.

In all, the Bahamas group numbers some 3,000 islands, cays, and rocks, scattered over 630 miles of water and extending in the general direction of the ultimate graveyard of the missiles off the Greater Antilles. Part of one of the easternmost islands, Mayaguana, is held by the United States under a 99-year lease. This arrangement began in 1940 when America gave war-pressed Britain 50 destroyers in return for several advance defense points on British territory.

The Bahamas already hold a special spot in American history and world geography. It was at San Salvador (Watling) Island that Christopher Columbus, seeking a new route to India, first reached the New World in October, 1492.

The centuries that followed were turbulent ones. The native Bahaman race, the Lucayans, were transported to near-by Hispaniola, the island now occupied by Haiti and the Dominican Republic. There the hardships of working in the gold mines under Spanish exploitation exterminated them. Meanwhile, buccaneers moved in on the Bahamas and made strongholds of certain islands.

Britain first laid claim to the archipelago in 1627, but was unable to break the pirates' grip for almost a century. Subsequent attempts to colonize the islands suffered under the scourge of frequent Spanish raids. It was not until 1782 that Britain's title was officially recognized by treaty.

Prosperity Wave During Civil War

The Bahamas economy has often run in boom-and-bust cycles. After the American Revolution, British loyalists flocked to the islands and developed cane and cotton plantations. They brought great numbers of slaves from Africa. But the boom faded when slavery was abolished there in 1838.

Another wave of prosperity swept over the colony during the American Civil War. Nassau, the Bahaman capital on New Providence Island, became a base for vessels running the blockade imposed against the Confederate States.

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a cartoon appearing in Benjamin Franklin's "Plain Truth of 1747." Captioned "God Helps Them Who Help Themselves," it showed a busy farm scene. It was the first of many woodcuts which helped to shape the colonists' eventual decision to fight for independence.

In a few museums today are treasured comic books of a century ago treating "The Adventures of Obadiah Oldbuck" and "The Fortunes of Ferdinand Flipper." So avidly were these read that the editions were literally worn out of existence, save for a few stray copies.

The 57-year modern history of the comics turns backward from Steve Canyon, Superman, Blondie, and Mickey Mouse—all familiar to young and old in many parts of the world. Before Popeye and Jiggs and a host of others, there were Slim Jim, Hairbreadth Harry, Buster Brown, Krazy Kat, and the Katzenjammer Kids.

The touring Treasury Bonds exhibit credits evolution of the modern picture-strip technique to three men. They were James Swinnerton, whose "The Little Bears and Tigers" blossomed in the *San Francisco Examiner* in 1892; Richard F. Outcault, Buster Brown's creator, whose "The Yellow Kid" first appeared in the *New York World* on February 16, 1896; and R. Dirks, whose mischievous Katzenjammers made their debut in the *World* in December, 1898.

NOTE: See also, "Lascaux Cave, Cradle of World Art" in the December, 1948, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine.*

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

THE EARLY WALT DISNEY OF THIS CAVE STUDIO DREW IBEXES RATHER THAN MICE AND DUCKS

In the Lascaux Cave of south central France, the primitive artist sketched two of the long-antlered animals facing each other over a criblike receptacle supposedly filled wih food. His finished picture may or may not be worth 10,000 words, but it probably was drawn 10,000 years before man wrote his first word. Thus the cavemen, earth's first comic-strip artists, worked for centuries unhampered by the balloon, the bag of words suspended above each character to indicate what is being said.

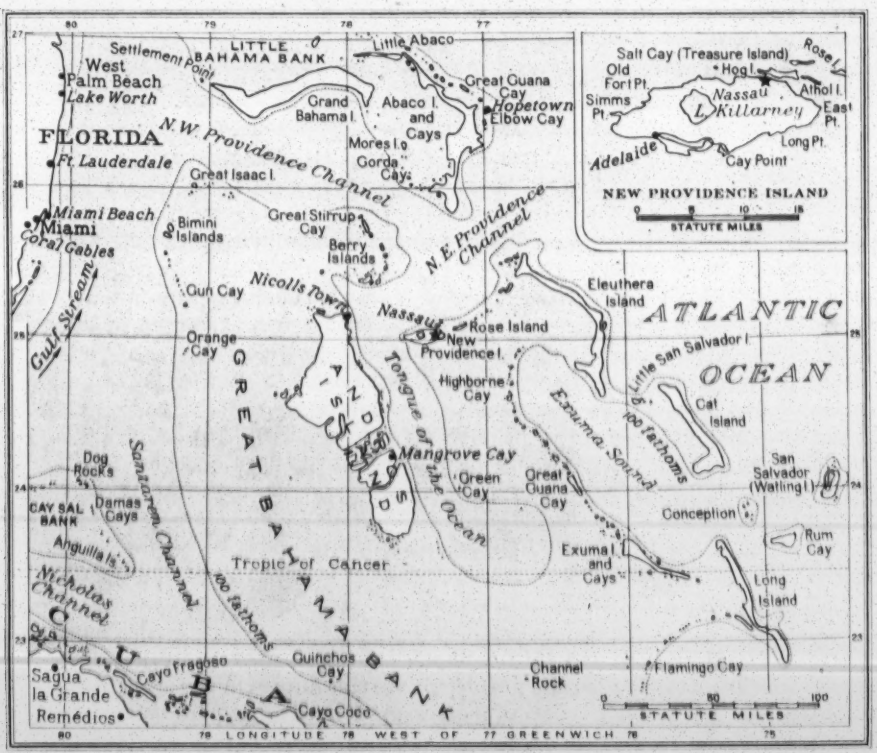
The islands today have an estimated population of 80,000, more than a third of whom live on New Providence. Besides the tourist trade, centered in Nassau, the principal island occupations include tomato and sisal growing, fishing, native straw and shell work, salt production, and the cutting of lumber on Grand Bahama, Abaco, and Andros islands.

A recent study disclosed an alarming drop in the flamingo population of the Bahamas. The big Andros Island rookeries, where the crimson-hued birds formerly nested and bred by the thousands, are now completely deserted. Causes: oil prospecting has brought large numbers of native workers close to the rookeries; and low-flying airplanes during the war scattered the potential breeders. Abaco and Grand Bahama rookeries are also abandoned. Only on Great Inagua has activity increased, with nests of 3,000 to 4,000 of the stilt-legged birds reported.

NOTE: The Bahama Islands are shown on the Society's map, Countries of the Caribbean.

For additional information, see "*Carib* Cruises the West Indies," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for January, 1948; "The British Commonwealth of Nations," April, 1943; "Bahama Holiday," February, 1936; and "Coral Castle Builders of Tropic Seas," June, 1934.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, April 16, 1945, "Bahamas, Isles Near United States, Have Food Problem."



DRAWN BY NEWMAN BUMSTEAD

ONLY THE GULF STREAM SEPARATES THE UNITED STATES FROM THE NEAREST OVERSEAS FOREIGN TERRITORY—THE BAHAMA ISLANDS

The islands today have an estimated population of 80,000, more than a third of whom live on New Providence. Besides the tourist trade, centered in Nassau, the principal island occupations include tomato and sisal growing, fishing, native straw and shell work, salt production, and the cutting of lumber on Grand Bahama, Abaco, and Andros islands.

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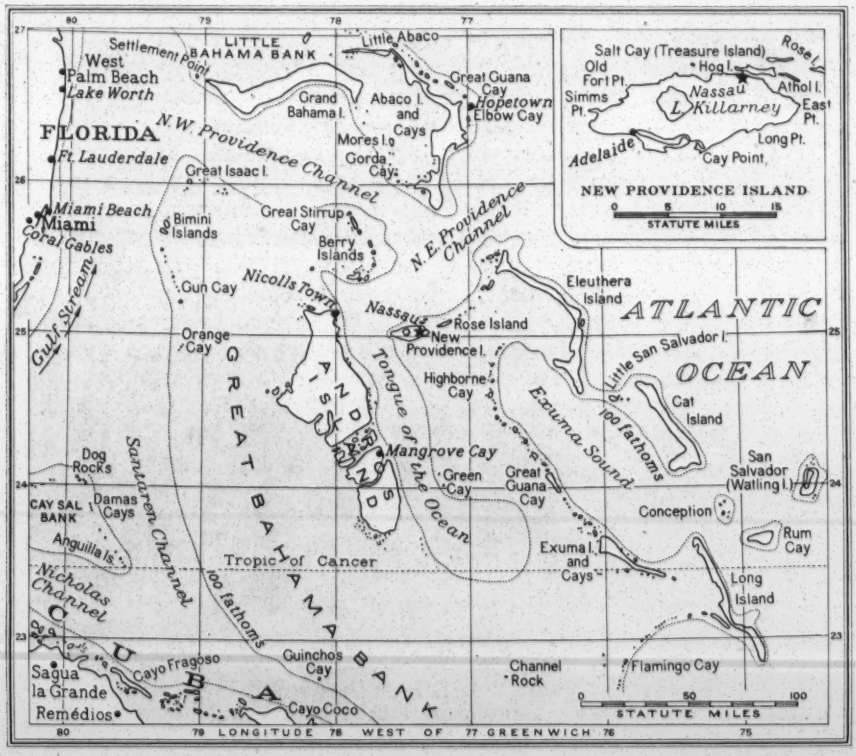

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